

A LIVELY CONFERENCE, THIS
BISHOP TANNER AND HIS GAVEL PLAY IM-
PORTANT PARTS.

DELINQUENT MEMBERS OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SHARPLY
REPROVED.

There was determination in the manner of Bishop Benjamin Tucker Tanner yesterday morning when he opened the second day's proceedings of the seventy-third annual session of the New York Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in the Sullivan Street church. It had been rumored among the brothers and sisters that a lively session might be expected, and a large congregation had assembled, at 10 o'clock the collection of "dunder money" began. This is a tax of one dollar a year levied on every member of the churches in the district for the support of the conference. Each pastor stepped forward and deposited his money. Finally a little man, the Rev. R. R. Prather of Seneca, L. I., stepped up and laid down seven dollars in dimes and nickels. Bishop Tanner grasped his gavel firmly. "How is this, brother?" he demanded. "There are nine mem bers of your congregation and there is but \$7 left."

"Two of my flock would not pay," said the brother, "I tolled them in vain." But after the Bishop and the gavel had remained a while with Brother Prather upon the subject, the latter pronounced fully that such a deficiency should never occur again. A list of all those who had not paid their dollars was read. Most of them had remained away from the church until the dunder ceremony was over. But this did not save them. The Bishop kept the list before him and whenever a recalcitrant brother tried to slip into a back pew the relentless gavel came down, and the Bishop called him by name and demanded why that dollar had not been forthcoming.

The case of Brother Gregson was next brought up. Brother Gregson is a wandering star. He has been going about the country collecting funds for some church work and has antagonized nearly every member of the conference in one way or another.

"Brother Gregson," said the Rev. Dr. W. B. Derrick, finally, "has had his head turned by association with inferior persons of the white race. He knows us in the dark but passes by on the other side in the daylight. We want no man in our congregation that is ashamed to associate with his brethren, whether they are green, gray, yellow, brown or spotted." The audience shouted its approval.

Brother Gerry of Long Island attempted to speak on the question, but his manner gave offence to the Bishop, and the gavel crushed his rising eloquence. Finally a committee was appointed to reason with Brother Gregson.

A letter from J. J. Moore, recording secretary of the conference, was next read and aroused much anger. Brother Moore announced that he was about to emigrate to Canada, to join the Methodist Episcopal Church there. Bishop Tanner frowned at Brother Moore, and hinted broadly that his seat ought to be vacated at once. An uproar arose in the church, several men demanding that Brother Moore's pay as secretary be stopped. In vain the gavel demanded order until Dr. Derrick came to its rescue. "Be quiet," he cried, "we have always respected the gavel; let us not now cease to obey it." Brother Moore said that he had been moved by the Lord to go to Canada, and the Bishop said that Brother Moore probably needed the salary to enable him to effect the removal.

After the noon recess Dr. Derrick presented a committee report against opening the World's Fair on Sunday. On the question of raising \$150 for general church expenses, it was decided that New York should give \$20, to be added to \$75 raised by Philadelphia and \$25 expected from New-England. New-Jersey should be excused this year, as its general contributions were not up to par. Bishop Tanner read a list of committees, asking for reports. Brother F. E. Giles replied to several, "Reported." Finally, however, Mr. Moore wanted to call a committee on the Sunday-school. He was called, then fell the gavel with a thunderous rap and the Bishop leaped over and looked at Brother Giles. The latter almost bounded out of his chair, but he obeyed.

The chairman of the Committee on Missions wanted another meeting before he reported. "Call the members," said Bishop Tanner. Call them louder." Then he called for a vote of adjournment. The committee was called. Then fell the gavel with a thunderous rap and the Bishop leaped over and looked at Brother Giles. The latter almost bounded out of his chair, but he obeyed.

The conference then adjourned until 9 a.m. to-morrow. It is hoped that final adjournment may be taken on Monday night.

THE FRANCO-SIAMESE CONFLICT.

DUE TO THE ATTEMPT OF FRANCE TO RESTORE CERTAIN DISTRICTS TO ANAM.

The little war which has broken out in Indo-China, along the Mekong River, is the result of the attempt made by the French to restore to the kingdom of Annam, over which they exercised a protectorate, some districts which belong to Annam and which had been invaded by the Siamese. Until 1838, the territory of Annam extended far beyond the western or right bank of the Mekong, but that territory fell afterwards into the possession of Siam; and the lower Mekong formed the recognized frontier of Southern Annam when France established her protectorate. In 1848-55, at the time of the revolt of Sia-Vo, a brother of the Annamese vassal king, Norodom, the French had built a blockhouse and maintained a military post at Sung-Trang, on the left bank of the Mekong, and consequently in Annamese territory. That post was evacuated as soon after the crushing of Sia-Vo's rebellion, and the Siamese, crossing the river, occupied Sung-Trang, without any right to do it. They installed there a royal camp, with a sort of twenty-five soldiers, and imposed their authority upon the neighboring districts, including the island of Kien, which lies in mid-stream, near the rapids of that name, and which is forcibly to be used as a naval depot or navy yard for the French gunboats and mercantile sampans navigating the Mekong. It is true that the Siamese claim as theirs the whole valley of the great Indo-China River, and some maps place the limits of Siam along the mountain ridge which runs parallel to the China Sea and forms the eastern boundary of that valley. But the Mekong is practically in the lower part of its course, the limit between Siam and Annam, and the former country made no protest when the French occupied Sung-Trang, on the left bank, several years ago.

This place is a small village of about 1,000 inhabitants; and the Siamese quietly evacuated it when it was occupied, as well as the Khonh Island, the French, on April 7, 1863. It is reported that a garrison of the French left there last week, attacked most of the soldiers and officers being killed. The Bangkok Government declares that it can hardly be held responsible for this attack, which it says has been made by the Laotians, a savage tribe over which the Siamese Emperor pretends to have no control whatever. The same sovereign has also denied that he was invited by the English to any warlike operations against the French and the Annamese King, their protege, and that he has made, in view of such a war, large purchases of arms and supplies in Germany and England. It is also probable that he means war, knowing as he does that the French can easily forward large forces to Sung-Trang, on board gunboats and transport sampans, which, starting from Saigon, the French capital of Cochinchina, can go up the Mekong, despite the Provinces of Annam, which will put impossible roads for French troops successfully crossed them. France has in those regions of Annam, Tonkin and Cochinchina a large naval force, under command of the capitain de frégate, Le Triquet, and an arm of 25,000 men, including four regiments of native "stratifiers," commanded by French officers.

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